

HOUSE BILL 2420
By Kernell

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 3, Chapter 1, Part 1, relative to salaries and expenses of members of the general assembly.

WHEREAS, the salary of members of the general assembly has not increased for sixteen years; and

WHEREAS, the average Tennessean needs greater compensation to be encouraged to serve as a state legislator; and

WHEREAS, the state needs to encourage young people to get involved in civic and political life; and

WHEREAS, the salary of state legislators is prohibitive to recruiting young people to run for office; and

WHEREAS, the low legislative pay acts like a "poll tax" on service; and

WHEREAS, the state legislature has forgone salary increases to show leadership because of massive deficits; and

WHEREAS, Governor Bredesen has shown the people of Tennessee that he is able to manage state government within the current state budget; and

WHEREAS, populations of various districts have increased and so has time and effort in serving these districts; and

WHEREAS, the people of Tennessee demand state legislators be responsive to their needs and problems which includes spending time researching and dealing with issues including the effect of federal programs and economic change; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-106, is amended by deleting subsection (f) and substituting instead the following:

(f) Each member of the general assembly shall be paid a monthly expense allowance of six hundred nine dollars (\$609), to provide for expenses necessitated in connection with the member's official duties when away from the seat of government including, but not limited to, telecommunications, office, secretarial and other assistance or incidental expenses.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 3-1-107(a), is amended by deleting subdivision (1) and substituting instead the following:

(1) Beginning with the election of the One Hundred Fourth General Assembly, each member shall receive an annual salary of nineteen thousand one hundred forty dollars (\$19,140), payable in equal monthly installments, which shall be in addition to all other expenses and allowances provided by law.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it.